

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for manipulating an orthopedic device having first and second baseplates, the first baseplate having a first vertebral body contacting surface and first, second and third confronting surfaces angled with respect to one another, the second baseplate having a second vertebral body contacting surface and first, second and third confronting surfaces angled with respect to one another, the apparatus comprising:

at least one shaft having a longitudinal axis and a shaft distal end ~~adapted for engagement with the orthopedic device,~~ the shaft distal end further having a top and bottom set of first, second and third forward surfaces angled with respect to one another for engagement with ~~corresponding~~the confronting surfaces of ~~at least one of the baseplates~~ for axial rotationally aligning ~~the at least one of the baseplates~~ with respect to the longitudinal axis of the shaft in at least two of a plurality of possible axial rotationally aligned positions,

~~wherein each of such possible axial rotationally aligned positions aligns the longitudinal axis of the shaft with respect to a respective one of the corresponding confronting surfaces.~~

wherein when the apparatus is engaged to the orthopedic device during manipulation at least two of the top set of first, second and third forward surfaces of the apparatus engage at least two of the first, second and third confronting surfaces of the first vertebral body and at least two of the bottom set of first, second and third forward surfaces of the apparatus engage at least two of the first, second and third confronting surfaces of the second vertebral body.

2. (cancelled).

3. (cancelled).

4. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the forward surfaces are angled with respect to one another at an orientation angle of approximately 33.4 degrees.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the forward surfaces are angled with respect to one another at an orientation angle that facilitates engagement of the apparatus with the device in a plurality of rotated positions with respect to the device such that possible engagement orientations approaches include at least an anterior insertion approach and at least one anterior-lateral insertion approach.

6. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forward surfaces are adapted for engagement with the device such that either an anterior-laterally facing forward surface and an anteriorly facing forward surface is mateable with any of an anterior-laterally facing confronting surface and an anteriorly facing confronting surface.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the anteriorly facing forward surface is spaced from the anteriorly facing confronting surface when two anterior-laterally facing surfaces are engaged with two anterior-laterally facing forward surfaces.

8. (cancelled).

9. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein engagement of at least two of the forward surfaces with at least two of the confronting surfaces significantly limits movement of

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the at least one of the baseplates relative to the apparatus.

10. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein engagement of at least two of the forward surfaces with at least two of the confronting surfaces substantially minimizes rotation of either of the baseplates about a longitudinal axis of the device.

11. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, the apparatus further comprising at least one vertebral body stop, wherein the stop prevents over-insertion of the device into an intervertebral space.

12-20. (cancelled).